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## **Arizona Rock Products Association participates in Earth Day Pollinator Garden Planting event at the Capitol Mall and Wesley Bolin Plaza**

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**Phoenix, Arizona** – The Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has partnered with the Arizona Mining Association (AMA), Andy Tobin and Nola Barnes of the Arizona Department of Administration and Wildlife Habitat Council to plant native pollinator gardens at the State’s Capitol Mall. One is located near the Joint Legislative Budget Council building and the other is in Wesley Bolin Plaza. The project is an effort to enhance the spaces for both visitors and native species. The pollinator planting event marks the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, showcasing AMA’s commitment to biodiversity and the community in Arizona.

AMA Chairman Francis McAllister of Freeport McMoran sees this as a great collaborative effort. “WHC has been coordinating with the Arizona Mining Association in order to develop a conservation support profile which provides value to all member companies and reflects the positive impact the mining industry has on Arizona communities and diverse natural environments.” Key partners supporting this venture are the Arizona Nursery Association, Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Wildlife Habitat Council, and members of the Arizona Rock Products Association.

By its nature, mining for economically critical minerals creates impacts on the native landscape and the local communities in which AMA members operate. The AMA member companies regularly engage employee and supplier volunteers to work with local stakeholders to implement conservation programs that seek to maximize the delivery of positive, lasting benefits to both the environment and local communities. In honor of this commitment and Earth Day 2020, this project seeks to give the capitol

community and visitors a way to celebrate native pollinators and connect Arizona habitats to the State, citizens, and tourists using downtown spaces.

Steve Trussell, Executive Director of the Arizona Mining Association and Arizona Rock Products Association commented, “Work on the gardens will conclude on April 29<sup>th</sup> and visitors are encouraged to come down and enjoy the spaces as they enjoy the Arizona State Capitol. The landscape design created by Mary Estes of Norris Design requires little irrigation and features native desert species. Even within our urban centers, it is so nice to be reminded of how incredible nature is.”

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***The Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) is the oldest mining related trade organization in Arizona and for well over 60 years has been providing representation for 51 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement used in nearly every private and public construction project in Arizona. Arizona’s aggregate mining industry employs approximately 7,745 people directly and 17,929 indirectly for a total of 25,674 has an estimated direct and indirect impact on the Arizona economy of \$4.9 billion. Our producer members are combined with over 67 associate members that provide related transportation, contracting, mining supplies and consulting services.***